connect Internet; and

(d) whether any other agencies are permitted to provide Internet connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) VSNL has established international Internet Gateways Department of Telecommunications has also set up many Internet nodes in the country in the last one year. The tariff for the same is affordable.

Increasing demand is met by expansion of existing nodes & Installation of additional dometic nodes and increasing the capacity of international gateways as and when necessary.

(c) Yes sir, in some cases due to congestion.

(d) NICNET, ERNET & Software Technology Parks of DOE are permitted to provide Internet Access to their permitted Network Users.

Introduction of tapping system by security forces

3. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDHE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various security forces, including CBI and RAW proposed to introduce a tapping system with respect to cellular phones;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) how far it is legally and aesthetically maintainable and justifiable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As per provisions contained in Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, subject to conditions/situation laid down, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may intercept or detain a message or a class of messages. While R&AW is not concerned with the subject, in the case of CBI, the operational requirement necessitates collecting of intelligence on crime including through tapping of phones/ cellular phones, after following the due procedure established by law.

(b) All the licenses of Cellular Mobile Telephone services are governed by the provision mentioned at (a) above.

(c) As long as the interception/tapping of cellular phones is under taken or ordered under the specified provisions contained in Section 5(2) of the said Act viz on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, it would be legal, maintainable and justifiable.

गुजरात के जनजातीय और सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन सुविधा

4. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गुजरात के जनजातीय और सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों विशेषकर कच्छ जिले में टेलीफोन सुविधानों का अभाव है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सुधार हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार सभी तहसील मुख्यालयों को टेलीफोन सुविधाओं से जोड़ने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) क्या परिमंडल के मुख्य महाप्रबंधक ने इस संबंध में कोई विशेष कदम उठाए हैं; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) और (ख) कच्छ जिला सहित गुजरात के जनजातीय तथा